5/8/87 S6615-2

OREGON LABOR TRENDS

APRIL 1987

MARCH INDICATORS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Oregon (Seas. Adj.)		
Mar.	1987	6.3
Feb.	1987	6.5
Mar.	1986	8.9
U.S.		
Mar.	1987	6.6
Feb.	1987	6.7
Mar.	1986	7.2

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT INDEX

Oregon	1977=100	
Mar.	1987	115.7
Feb.	1987	115.3
Jan.	1987	114.8
Dec.	1986	114.2
Nov.	1986	113.8

DIFFUSION INDEX

Oregon		
Mar.	1987	60.5
Feb.	1987	64.3
Jan.	1987	59.7
Dec.	1986	53.5
Nov.	1986	48.5

PRODUCTION WORKER AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

Oregon		
Feb.	1987	39.5
Jan.	1987	38.9
Feb.	1986	38.7

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

1967=100
ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

Portland MSA

Nov.	1986	318.0
Yearly Change		+ 0.3%
Annual Average	1986	316.8
Yearly Change		+ 1.4%

U.S.

Mar.	1987	335.9
Yearly Change		+ 3.0%
Annual Average	1986	328.4
Yearly Change		+ 1.9%

Portland Hotline 221-4132

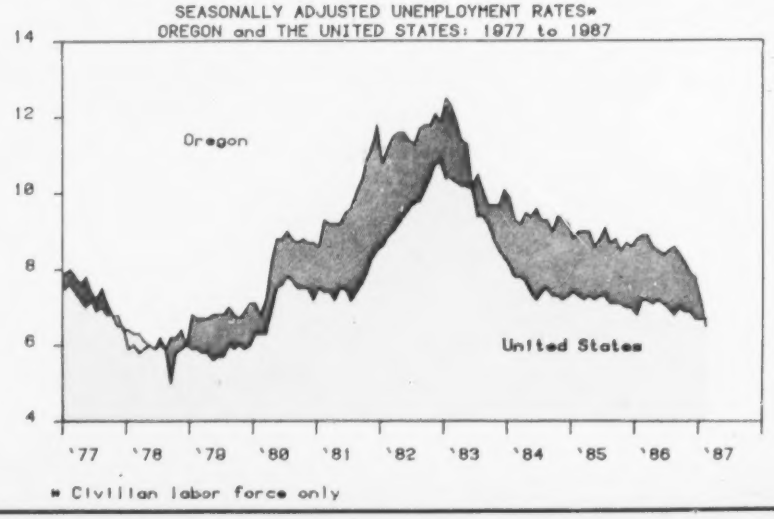
MONTHLY ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Dwayne Stevenson

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate recorded its seventh consecutive monthly drop in March. The 6.3 percent rate also kept Oregon below the national rate (6.6 percent) for the second consecutive month. The number of unemployed was 93,000 -- an 8 percent decrease from February's 101,200 which was 12 percent lower than January. The count of unemployed workers was the lowest for March since 1979, when unemployment was 88,500 and the unemployment rate was 6.7 percent.

On the surface, employment appears to be muddling along. However, the seasonally adjusted wage and salary employment index has shown a steady climb for six months. This means that we have had more jobs through the fall and winter than we would usually expect. Another labor market indicator, the diffusion index, has been high for three months. This indicates that the strength in wage and salary employment is building our economy by providing not only a higher level to the structure but also a stronger, broader foundation as well.

Oregon's economic outlook is further enhanced by a recent Western Wood Products Association forecast of 1.75 million housing starts in 1987. This would be the fifth straight year that housing starts have been above 1.7 million -- a stable period of surprising duration for this historically volatile industry. This bodes well for lumber and wood products which continues to set new highs in production. Production, however, may tail off in a year or two as a projected decline in housing starts occurs and as Canadian producers regain the markets they



RESIDENT OREGON LABOR FORCE

	MAR. 1987 1/	FEB. 1987 2/	CHANGE	% CHANGE	MAR. 1986 5/
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 3/	1,349,400	1,359,500	- 10,100	- 0.7	1,322,100
UNEMPLOYMENT	93,000	101,200	- 8,200	- 8.1	128,900
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	6.9	7.4	XXX	XXX	9.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED PERCENT	6.3	6.5	XXX	XXX	8.9
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT 4/	1,256,400	1,258,300	- 1,900	- 0.2	1,193,200

1/ PRELIMINARY. 2/ REVISED. 3/ INCLUDES EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS 16 YEARS AND OLDER. DATA ARE ADJUSTED FOR MULTIPLE JOB-HOLDING AND COMMUTING. 4/ INCLUDES NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY, SELF-EMPLOYED, UNPAID FAMILY WORKERS, DOMESTICS, FARM WORKERS, AND LABOR DISPUTANTS. 5/ DUE TO REVISED ESTIMATING PROCEDURES BETWEEN DECEMBER 1986 AND JANUARY 1987, DATA FOR 1987 AND THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS ARE NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(BY PLACE OF WORK)

INDUSTRY	MAR. 1987 1/	FEB. 1987 2/	MAR. 1986	CHANGE FROM FEB. 1987	CHANGE FROM MAR. 1986
TOTAL 3/	1,067,400	1,060,000	1,033,300	7,400	34,100
WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT INDEX 4/	115.7	115.3	112.0	XXX	XXX
DIFFUSION INDEX 5/	60.5	64.3	46.1	XXX	XXX
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	191,700	191,500	190,400	200	1,300
DURABLE GOODS	140,200	139,600	139,800	600	400
LUMBER & WOOD PRODUCTS	63,400	63,200	61,200	200	2,200
LOGGING & SAWMILLS	31,500	31,700	30,700	- 200	800
VENEER & PLYWOOD	17,400	17,200	16,600	200	800
MILLWORK & STRUCTURAL WOOD	9,600	9,400	8,900	200	700
MOBILE HOMES	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	- 100
OTHER WOOD PRODUCTS	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	2,400	2,300	2,500	100	- 100
STONE, CLAY, GLASS & CONCRETE	3,100	3,000	3,100	100	0
PRIMARY METALS	8,600	8,500	8,800	100	- 200
BLAST FURNACES, IRON & STEEL	5,200	5,200	5,500	0	- 300
NONFERROUS METALS	3,400	3,300	3,300	100	100
FABRICATED METALS	10,200	10,100	10,700	100	- 500
FABRICATED STRUCTURAL METALS	4,500	4,500	5,100	0	- 600
OTHER FABRICATED METALS	5,700	5,600	5,600	100	100
MACHINERY	14,700	14,600	14,800	100	- 100
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	13,100	12,900	12,700	200	400
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	10,200	10,400	9,700	- 200	500
INSTRUMENTS & RELATED PRODUCTS	11,900	12,000	13,900	- 100	- 2,000
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
NONDURABLE GOODS	51,500	51,900	50,600	- 400	900
FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS	20,500	20,900	20,200	- 400	300
CANNING & PRESERVING	10,100	10,500	10,100	- 400	0
OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS	10,400	10,400	10,100	0	300
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
APPAREL	2,300	2,400	2,400	- 100	- 100
PAPER & ALLIED PRODUCTS	8,700	8,800	8,900	- 100	- 200
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	12,000	11,900	11,400	100	600
CHEMICALS & ALLIED PRODUCTS	2,200	2,100	2,100	100	100
PETROLEUM REFINING	300	400	400	- 100	- 100
RUBBER & PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200
LEATHER PRODUCTS	500	500	400	0	100

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(BY PLACE OF WORK)

INDUSTRY	MAR. 1987	FEB. 1987	MAR. 1986	CHANGE FROM FEB. 1987	CHANGE FROM MAR. 1986
(CONT.)					
TOTAL NONMANUFACTURING	875,700	868,500	842,900	7,200	32,800
MINING & QUARRYING	1,300	1,200	1,200	100	100
CONSTRUCTION	29,000	28,700	31,500	300	- 2,500
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, & UTILITIES	57,100	56,700	55,600	400	1,500
TRANSPORTATION	36,000	35,800	34,200	200	1,800
RAILROAD	4,200	4,100	4,500	100	- 300
TRUCKING & WAREHOUSING	20,900	20,800	18,900	100	2,000
OTHER TRANSPORTATION	10,900	10,900	10,800	0	100
COMMUNICATIONS	12,500	12,500	12,800	0	- 300
UTILITIES	8,600	8,400	8,600	200	0
TRADE	267,100	264,700	257,900	2,400	9,200
WHOLESALE TRADE	67,000	66,400	66,400	600	600
DURABLE GOODS	39,000	38,900	38,900	100	100
NONDURABLE GOODS	28,000	27,500	27,500	500	500
RETAIL TRADE	200,100	198,300	191,500	1,800	8,600
GENERAL MERCHANDISE	25,000	25,000	24,700	0	300
FOOD STORES	32,900	32,900	30,100	0	2,800
AUTO DEALERS & SERVICE STATIONS	24,900	24,800	24,200	100	700
OTHER RETAIL TRADE	117,300	115,600	112,500	1,700	4,800
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	71,200	71,200	67,600	0	3,600
BANKING & CREDIT AGENCIES	23,900	23,900	23,300	0	600
OTHER FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	47,300	47,300	44,300	0	3,000
SERVICES	240,800	237,900	224,800	2,900	16,000
HOTELS & PERSONAL SERVICES	25,800	25,200	24,500	600	1,300
HEALTH SERVICES	74,900	74,300	71,500	600	3,400
OTHER SERVICES	140,100	138,400	128,800	1,700	11,300
GOVERNMENT	209,200	208,100	204,300	1,100	4,900
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	28,800	28,600	28,400	200	400
STATE GOVERNMENT	58,100	57,600	55,800	500	2,300
EDUCATION	25,400	25,200	24,600	200	800
OTHER STATE	32,700	32,400	31,200	300	1,500
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	122,300	121,900	120,100	400	2,200
EDUCATION	79,200	79,200	78,300	0	900
OTHER LOCAL	43,100	42,700	41,800	400	1,300
LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES	0	0	0	0	0

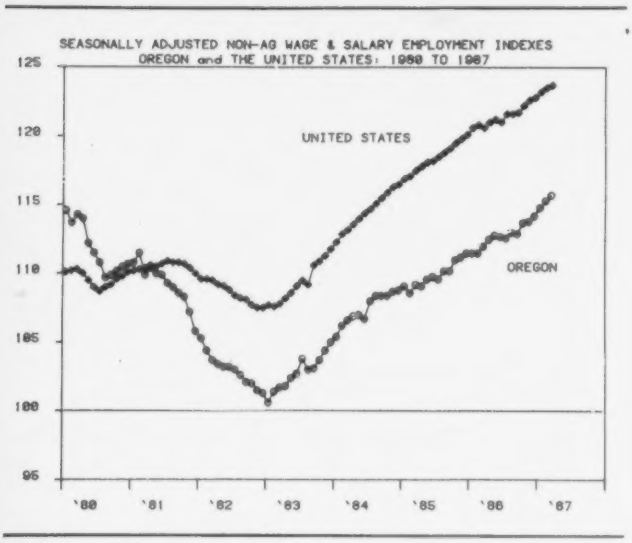
1/ PRELIMINARY

2/ REVISED

3/ INCLUDES FULL AND PART-TIME NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN PAY PERIODS INCLUDING THE 12TH OF THE MONTH. PROPRIETORS, SELF-EMPLOYED, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD WORKERS AND ARMED FORCES EXCLUDED. NOTE: ESTIMATED IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS AND EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION. ALL DATA ARE BASED ON THE 1972 STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC) CODES AS AMENDED BY THE 1977 SUPPLEMENT.

4/ TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, AND INDEXED TO 1977. DATA ON THE EARLIER INDEX (1972 = 100) CAN BE CONVERTED TO THE 1977 BASE PERIOD BY MULTIPLYING BY A FACTOR OF .8264, THE RATIO BETWEEN 1972'S ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT (774,300) AND THAT OF 1977 (936,900).

5/ THE DIFFUSION INDEX IS THE PERCENTAGE OF A SELECTED GROUP OF 43 INDUSTRIES SHOWING AN INCREASE IN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EMPLOYMENT. HALF OF THOSE INDUSTRIES SHOWING NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE (LESS THAN 1/2 OF 1%) ARE COUNTED AS INCREASING.



lost during the recent labor dispute. According to a recent wood products industry newsletter, the new export tax on Canadian lumber is not expected to have a significant impact on their market share in the long run. In a related industry, both prices and demand for paper are recording new highs creating opportunities for new competition and potential for new jobs.

Construction activity in Oregon has divided into two segments. While residential constuction is maintaining its best showing since the recession, heavy construction has fallen behind levels of recent years. However, recent passage of the national highway bill will bring Oregon $140 million per year for five years. As bids are awarded for bridge and road construction, a surge of 2000 workers is expected in heavy construction. An additional one or two hundred jobs will be created as work begins in April on the Arco oil module contract for Alaska's North Slope. A regional shift has become more clearly defined as Oregon is now the only location in the Nation where this type of work is currently being done.

In other durable goods manufacturing, the aluminum industry is looking better. Both Reynolds Metals of Troutdale and Northwest Aluminum of The Dalles are scheduled to start additional potlines in May. Other good news included the award of a Navy ship overhaul contract to Northwest Marine Iron Works. This will provide up to 500 jobs for about one year in transportation equipment. Electronics, instruments, and computers appear to have bottomed out since employment has now been stable for over six months.

The 400 employment drop in food products was due to the cherry processing cycle. No significant gains are expected until the beginning of the strawberry season in May. Printing and publishing continued to show small but steady gains.

For the second consecutive month, trade performed better than expected. On the wholesale side, two-thirds of the new jobs were in groceries and related products. Companies dealing in fresh fruit and vegetables led the way. In retail trade, the desire for quality leisure time and the thought of good weather approaching seem to be the dominant factors. Employment in eating and drinking places rose substantially, while building materials and garden supplies; boat, recreational vehicle, and motorcycle dealers; and gas stations were responsible for smaller increases.

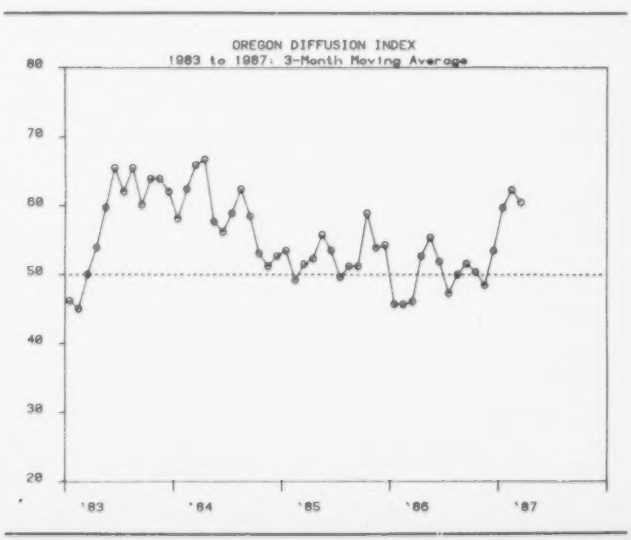
Economic and seasonal factors combined to produce another massive increase in services. Business services (led by employment and temporary help agencies) and health services (mostly outside hospitals) added 1,100 and 600 respectively. Hotels and lodging places (up 600) enjoyed the first of many growth months heading into the summer.

Both trade and services should benefit from the income tax refunds which have been arriving. The Internal Revenue Service has sent taxpayers over $30 billion so far with refunds averaging above $800. Combined with state tax refunds and lower withholding rates on current paychecks, this money should provide a strong impetus to consumer spending.

Two hundred new jobs occurred in utilities and several hundred more will show in the next two months as scheduled maintenance is done at Portland General Electric's Trojan plant. The additional employment increase will occur primarily in construction.

Government experienced a gain of 1,100 workers. However, school closures, which have been the bane of Oregon's educational system, continue. April's employment trends will be affected by labor disputes in Coos Bay and Eugene involving close to 1,000 teachers.

With the solid economic base; the excellent condition of the forest products-based industries; and the funding of heavy construction, Oregon's employment picture looks bright for the rest of this year. □



WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

Nancy Hargis

The rising labor force participation of women is one of the most significant demographic trends of the 1970s and 1980s. Who are these women? What kinds of jobs do they do? Why do they work? How much do they earn? Exploring these questions leads to answers that are both expected and somewhat surprising.

From 1975 through 1985, the United States' civilian labor force grew by 23 percent. Women contributed 63 percent of the total growth, as their numbers rose from 38 million to 51 million. Although the Oregon labor force grew only nine percent between 1979 and 1985, women comprised 86 percent of that total growth, increasing from 484,000 to 579,000.

The labor force participation rates (the percentage of people age 16 and over who are working or actively seeking work) for men and women in Oregon reflect, among other things, the impact of the recession on the economy. While in 1979, 51 percent of women were in the labor force, that percentage grew to nearly 56 percent by 1985. The labor force participation rate for men, however, declined proportionately from 78 percent in 1979 to 74 percent in 1985.

Nationally, more than 60 percent of women with children under age 18 were in the labor force in 1985. Of these 20 million women, eight million had preschool children. Most employed mothers worked full time and divorced mothers were more likely to work full time than married, separated, widowed or never married mothers.

The occupations women enter remain, in large measure, those in which women have traditionally worked -- clerical, nursing, teaching in elementary and secondary schools and apparel sales. Secretarial work is still the largest occupation of women. There has, however, been a significant increase in the number of women in executive, administrative and managerial occupations. They also have increased their presence in nontraditional areas of work, such as law, engineering, law enforcement and the skilled trades.

Approximately 150,000 women were members of the Armed Forces in 1985, comprising about nine percent of the total. Women in the military are excluded from combat by law and, as is also true of civilian women workers, the largest proportion of military women are in clerical and administrative fields. However, military women are much more likely than civilian women to be aircraft and auto mechanics and electronic equipment repairers.

An increasing number of women are choosing self-employment as an alternative. An article in the December 17 Oregonian reported that women are starting businesses at a rate five times that of men. This article cited research conducted at the University of Miami indicating that women own clothing stores, printing companies, advertising and public relations firms, flower shops, gift shops and manufacturing firms.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, three factors have led to the increase in the number of businesses owned by women:

-More women have acquired skills and experiences that can be translated into entrepreneurship.

-More women are preparing themselves by education and training to take advantage of opportunities in emerging industries such as biomedicine and electronics.

-General expansion of the service sector of the economy has created many new entrepreneurial opportunities.

It is important to understand that the majority of women in Oregon and across the country work because of economic need, to provide for or to supplement family income. The myth that women work primarily for "extra money" was dispelled by the recession of the early 1980s. Changes in the wage structure in many industries traditionally employing a large proportion of men have resulted in the need for two incomes to maintain many families' standard of living. Data also appear to indicate that as women's average education levels continue to increase, so does their motivation to work outside of the home.

Despite their increasing numbers in the labor force and advances in educational levels, full-time women workers earn less than two-thirds as much as full-time men workers on the average. Only 13 percent of women who worked year-round, full time in 1984 had earnings greater than $25,000, compared with 46 percent of men.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics cites the major reason for this earnings gap as the concentration of women in relatively low-paying occupations and in lower status jobs within higher paying occupations. Another reason is, in part, that women enter and leave the labor force more frequently than men, which results in their having less work experience and seniority. Other unmeasurable factors that may contribute to this earnings gap include personal attitudes and discrimination.

The emerging support service needs of women in the labor force are just beginning to be understood. Among these needs are quality child care, adequate transportation, household maintenance, sick/personal/maternity leave and retirement programs that do not unduly penalize women for "breaks in service" for child-rearing. Alternative work patterns, including flextime, in which employees can vary their daily work schedules from the norm, four-day work weeks, job sharing, part time and temporary work are increasingly attractive to women workers. These alternatives may enhance the quality of their personal and work lives, provide opportunities to continue their education and give them a chance to broaden their occupational experiences.

It seems clear that the women of the 1980s and 1990s will continue to expand their career and occupational horizons, both as a result of economic necessity and of their own motivation and drive. As the growth rate of the labor force declines, it is likely that employers and governments will increase their partnerships with women workers to maximize productive capacity for the benefit of business, individuals and society as a whole.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census recently released an excellent monograph, Women in the American Economy, upon which some of this article was based. The report focuses on changes from the early 1970s to the present for women who participated in the labor force. Copies are available for $2.75 (Stock Number 003-001-91563-4) from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC 20402. Prepayment is suggested.□

INCREASED EARNINGS—REAL OR AN ILLUSION?

Don Steward

When average hourly earnings in the manufacturing industries and per capita personal income are charted from 1977 to 1986 it appears that sizeable increases have been recorded during this ten year period. However, when these data are devalued for the cost of living increases (based on U.S. CPI-U) that have occurred during the same period, a much different picture emerges.

Over the past ten years Idaho, Washington, Oregon and the United States exhibited some very different trends. From 1977 to 1982, average hourly earnings for the northwest states grew faster than the national average, but after 1982 that trend reversed. The per capita income trend began to reverse itself as early as 1978 in Idaho and 1979 in Oregon and Washington.

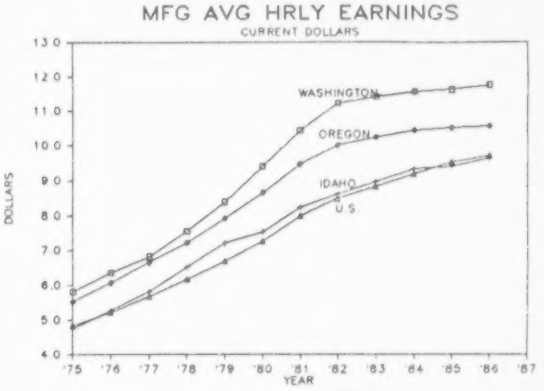
Of the four areas, Oregon has shown the weakest growth in hourly earnings during the last ten years. Average hourly earnings in Oregon's manufacturing industries grew only 54 cents (from $10.02 to $10.56) in the last four years. However, if average hourly earnings for Oregon were expressed in constant 1975 dollars, there has been a continuous decrease since 1978.

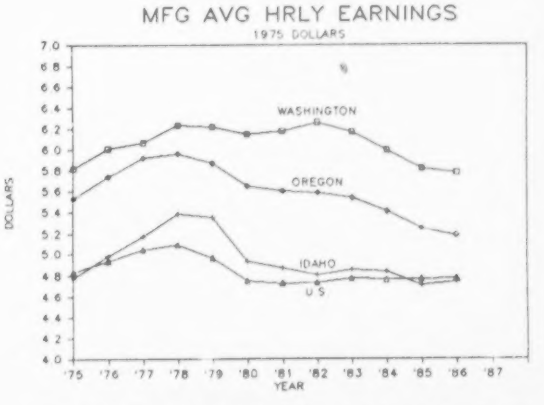
Oregon's average hourly earnings in manufacturing still remain above the national average, but the gap has narrowed almost 10% during the past ten years. When hourly earnings are converted to constant 1975 dollars, Oregon's average wage decreased from $5.92 in 1977 to $5.18 in 1986. For the United States as a whole, average hourly earnings decreased from $5.04 in 1977 to $4.78 in 1986. These figures reflect the loss of the higher paying lumber and wood products jobs from Oregon's economy and the steel and automobile manufacturing jobs from the national economy.

These comparisons give the impression that wage increases in manufacturing may not be keeping pace with inflation. What is actually occurring is that those manufacturing jobs that pay above average wages are becoming a smaller proportion of total manufacturing jobs. Industries like lumber and wood products in Oregon and automobile production at the national level are becoming more efficient and can produce more output with fewer workers.

In 1977, annual average lumber and wood products employment in Oregon was 79,400, or 8.5% of Oregon's total wage and salary employment. Average hourly earnings for the industry were $7.05 compared to $6.67 for all manufacturing industries. The average for all manufacturing industries in the United States was $5.68.

In 1986, annual average employment in the lumber industry was 63,900, up 8,300 from the industry's low point in 1982. This industry represented only 6.0% of Oregon's wage and salary employment in 1986. Average hourly earnings were $10.84 in wood products compared to $10.56 for all of Oregon's manufacturing industries and $9.73 for all manufacturing industries at the national level. During the last ten years Oregon has not only lost a large number of higher paying wood products jobs but the jobs remaining in the industry have lost some of their wage premium over other manufacturing jobs. The ten year increase in average hourly earnings for the lumber industry has been only 53.8% compared with 58.3% for all Oregon manufacturing jobs and 71.3% for all manufacturing jobs in the United States.

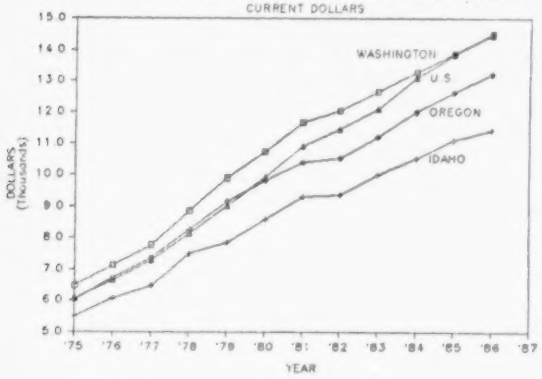


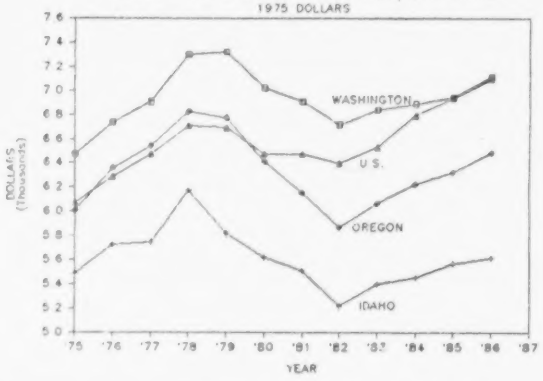


A question that logically follows is "what effect does this have on Oregon's economy?" If we look at the trend in per capita income, which is one of the indicators used to measure economic well-being, we see that Oregon's population is losing some of its buying power compared with the average resident in the United States. Over the

past decade, Oregon's per capita income has not kept pace with inflation. In 1977, Oregon's real per capita income (in terms of 1975 constant dollars) was $6,546 compared with $6,488 in 1986. Real per capita income decreased 14% from 1978 to 1982, but has increased 10.5% since then. The net loss for Oregon for the ten year period is nine-tenths of a percent. During the same decade, real per capita income for the United States increased 9.6%, while the State of Washington increased 3.1%. Idaho, which also has experienced severe economic hardship during the past ten years, suffered even more than Oregon. Idaho's real per capita income declined 2.3% during the past ten years.

While Oregon's economy has experienced a roller-coaster ride during the past ten years, it is currently on the mend. The State's residents have nearly recovered the spending power they lost but the source of income is shifting away from the manufacturing industries to a more retail and service-oriented economy. □





AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF OREGON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WORKERS 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. 2/ 1987	Jan. 3/ 1987	Feb. 1986	Feb. 2/ 1987	Jan. 3/ 1987	Feb. 1986	Feb. 2/ 1987	Jan. 3/ 1987	Feb. 1986
TOTAL MANUFACTURING 4/	$418.31	$412.34	$413.32	39.5	38.9	38.7	$10.59	$10.60	$10.68
Durable Goods	422.50	413.83	422.18	40.2	39.3	39.2	10.51	10.53	10.77
Lumber & Wood Products	432.96	408.67	445.20	41.0	38.7	40.0	10.56	10.56	11.13
Logging & Sawmills	454.41	428.93	470.42	40.5	38.4	39.3	11.22	11.17	11.97
Veneer & Plywood	442.98	409.11	459.90	42.8	39.3	42.0	10.35	10.41	10.95
Millwork & Structural	372.45	352.56	356.89	41.2	39.0	39.7	9.04	9.04	9.04
Mobile Homes	247.05	289.63	271.05	30.5	33.6	32.5	8.10	8.62	8.34
Other Wood Products	426.62	411.99	441.32	40.4	39.2	40.6	10.56	10.51	10.87
Furniture & Fixtures	309.58	315.90	320.47	37.8	39.0	43.9	8.19	8.10	7.30
Primary Metals	496.53	487.23	488.04	40.5	40.3	41.5	12.26	12.09	11.76
Fabricated Metals	375.58	368.42	385.70	38.8	38.7	38.0	9.68	9.52	10.15
Machinery (Ex Electrical)	434.51	430.78	422.67	39.9	38.6	39.1	10.89	11.16	10.81
Nondurable Goods	403.96	407.21	390.38	37.3	37.6	37.5	10.83	10.83	10.41
Food & Kindred Products	313.91	338.54	331.04	33.9	35.9	36.1	9.26	9.43	9.17
Canning & Preserving	259.64	291.87	266.08	32.7	35.9	34.2	7.94	8.13	7.78
Other Food Products	384.11	387.00	417.19	35.5	36.0	38.7	10.82	10.75	10.78
Textile Mill Products	265.60	244.69	238.75	40.0	37.3	38.2	6.64	6.56	6.25
Apparel	226.80	219.48	216.01	37.8	37.2	38.3	6.00	5.90	5.64
Paper & Allied Products	627.07	625.33	604.34	41.5	41.8	41.0	15.11	14.96	14.74
Printing & Publishing	463.14	424.99	395.66	37.9	36.2	36.1	12.22	11.74	10.96
Construction 4/	456.21	445.86	446.88	33.3	33.1	32.5	13.70	13.47	13.75
Communications & Utilities 5/	547.46	506.97	508.00	41.6	40.3	41.2	13.16	12.58	12.33
Trade 5/	286.27	276.87	285.26	33.6	33.0	33.6	8.52	8.39	8.49
Wholesale Trade	391.88	382.47	389.04	36.9	36.6	37.3	10.62	10.45	10.43
Retail Trade	237.22	228.18	233.95	32.1	31.3	31.7	7.39	7.29	7.38
Banking & Insurance	332.24	310.15	305.62						
State & Local Government	351.62	353.55	340.60						

1/ Figures are average gross hours and earnings of full and part-time worked or paid for, including overtime and shift premium pay. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. All data are based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.
2/ Preliminary
3/ Revised
4/ Data for production workers only and exclude administrative, supervisory (above working foremen), technical, sales and office personnel.
5/ Data for nonsupervisory employees only, excluding proprietors and executive personnel. Data for retail trade excludes eating and drinking places.

EMPLOYERS CORNER

Steve Schutz

(Editors Note: Steve Schutz is Vice-President, Northwest Region, of Employers' Unity and serves as the Oregon Job Service Employer Committee's Vice-Chairperson.)

The number of committees, associations and organizations business seems to get involved in can be staggering. Most of them want money, all of them claim to be good for business, and some of them deliver as promised. One of them, Job Service Employers' Committee (JSEC), plays a unique role for both business and government. In a sense, every business pays dues whether they know it or not, but over 1,000 employers in Oregon and some 30,000 employers across the country actively participate in JSEC activities.

JSEC's mission is to provide a link with the State Employment Division - the "unemployment office", and specifically, with Job Service, the Nation's Labor Exchange. Employers pay their dues because their Federal Unemployment Taxes (F.U.T.A.) totally fund the administration of the Employment Division and Job Service. Employers work with JSEC because of this investment. Paying for Job Service cannot be avoided (about $60 per year for each employee), but we can sure impact the quality of service we get.

Oregon's JSEC does not just meet to talk about the Employment Division; it is one of the most active JSEC organizations in the country. For example, when the Downtown Portland Employment Division office was modernized, JSEC helped design a better traffic flow pattern. The Downtown Office no longer looks or feels like a bureaucrat's dream.

JSEC also sponsored the Claim Game - an innovative and effective training tool based on Trivial Pursuit, which helps State employees learn and stay current with the law governing jobless benefits. JSEC Committees donated money and prizes which included a trip to Hawaii for State champions.

One local committee identified a lack of service to employers seeking professional, technical and managerial job applicants. Their suggestions led to the creation of Professional Placement Offices, staffed by account executives who identify industries' special needs and how to match job applicants with employers. Both the Claims Game and Professional Offices have received national attention from other state Job Service Centers and JSECs.

The 16 local Job Service employer committees in Oregon offer seminars to employers on human resource topics such as personnel management, compliance with labor laws and effective recruiting methods.

JSEC input has helped to make Job Service - the National Labor Exchange - more responsive to employer needs. This leads to better use of Job Service, and ultimately results in faster employment for Oregon's unemployed.

Many employers are reluctant to use Job Service to fill their openings because of the reputation Job Service has had in the past. JSEC is working to change that reputation, by improving Job Service. A more responsive Job Service is good business. Qualified applicants are out there and Job Service can match them with employers. JSEC is a powerful tool that can ensure employers get the most from the Employment Service. Information on JSEC is available by contacting Dorothy Monnier, State JSEC Coordinator at 378-4446, or Steve Schutz at 257-9494. □

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